



COVID-19 Outbreak Update 21 February

SOLACE GLOBAL

Solace Global advises against all travel to China at this time due to the ongoing travel restrictions, cancelled flights, government warnings and confirmed cases of the virus. Business operations in China continue to face significant disruption and further travel restrictions in both China and Asia are possible.

Latest Updates

There has been a significant increase in cases of COVID-19 in South Korea, with the number of confirmed cases increasing to 204. A large cluster of cases has been identified in the city of Daegu, most of which are connected to a single church congregation. Officials are currently investigating whether an elderly man who died with symptoms of pneumonia was the country's first COVID-19 fatality. With the exception of the *Diamond Princess*, South Korea is now the country outside of China with the most cases of the virus.

Chinese research suggests that COVID-19 is more deadly to men than women. Whilst men and women have been infected in roughly equal numbers, 2.8% of men diagnosed have died as opposed to 1.7% of women. Scientists hypothesise that this is due to over half of Chinese men being smokers compared to roughly one out of 25 women. Beyond that, some evidence suggests that women have been more proactive in seeking healthcare. Early treatment is considered vital in improving the chances of recovery.

In Ukraine, protesters have attacked a bus carrying evacuees from Wuhan. The Ukrainian Security Services has indicated that a fake email claiming to be from the Ministry of Health has said that some evacuees were suffering from COVID-19. Dozens of residents of Novi Sanzharj protested the arrival of the evacuees, who are currently being quarantined in the town. A similar protest occurred outside a hospital in Jericho, West Bank, on 20 February based on rumours of COVID-19 sufferers inside.

Iraq has closed its border with Iran for a period of three days and will quarantine its own citizens returning from the country. The decision follows two reported COVID-19 deaths in the town of Qoms on 19 February. Iranian reports on 21 February indicate that two further deaths have occurred in the country.

Current Statistics (Numbers Vary Between Sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	76,727 (+993)	Suspected Cases	5,206 (+1,614)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,247 (+119)
Current Total Infected Outside China	1,272 (+116)	Deaths outside of M. China	13 (+3)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	18,567 (+2,217)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	<i>Diamond Princess</i> (634), South Korea (204), Japan (97), Singapore (85), HK (69), Thailand (35), USA (27), Taiwan (26), Malaysia (22), Australia (17), Iran (18), Germany (16), Vietnam (16), France (12), Macau (10), UK (9), United Arab Emirates (9), Canada (9), Italy (6), Philippines (3), Sweden (1). All cases have recovered in: India (3), Russia (2), Spain (2), Nepal (1), Cambodia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Finland (1), Belgium (1), Egypt (1)				
Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)					
China	Quarantined cities/regions			Majority of Hubei Province, Wenzhou, Nanchang	
	Limited restrictions on public transport services (i.e. long-distance bus services, ride-hailing services, inter-city travel)			Majority of Chinese cities, additional health screenings at all public transport hubs	
Countries advising against all travel to China	Australia, Georgia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mozambique, New Zealand, South Korea, United States				
Countries advising against non-essential travel to China	All Schengen countries, Bahrain, Canada, India, Israel, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Oman, Palau (HK, Macau), Russia, South Korea (the SK government is also asking citizens to refrain from trips to countries in Southeast Asia), Taiwan, United Kingdom (the UK is advising citizens to leave China if they can), Singapore, St Vincent and the Grenadines				
Chinese flight restrictions	Majority of international flights to China have been cancelled, Chinese airlines continue to operate a limited schedule globally				
Countries denying entry	To those who have recently been to China: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain (including SARs), Bangladesh (including SARs), Belize, Cook Islands, Egypt (will impose quarantine), El Salvador (Chinese nationals), Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (including SARs), Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, N Korea, Philippines (including SARs), Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Trinidad & T, US, Vietnam. To those travelling directly from China: Gabon, India, Iraq, Jamaica, New Zealand, Samoa, Vietnam. To those who have visited Hubei Province: Bhutan, Brunei, Ethiopia, Japan (also includes those arriving from Zhejiang), Macau, Malaysia, South Korea				

Solace Global Advice

- Solace Global advises against all travel to China due to travel restrictions currently in place and the current outbreak. There is limited flight availability and further travel restrictions, both within China and to and from home countries, may be implemented with little or no notice.
- Solace Global advises against non-essential travel to Hong Kong and Macau.
- Continue to monitor the situation closely, the situation remains fluid and new travel restrictions and further outbreaks may occur with no warning.
- Do not travel if ill, as you may be subject to additional screening, delays and even quarantine, regardless of destination or country of origin.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms, should you suspect that you have contracted the virus, self-quarantine and immediately call your relevant embassy and/or the local authorities.

If currently in or travelling to China:

- Strictly monitor all updates via both local and international media, Chinese and other government authorities and Solace Secure.
- Always maintain a good hygiene level, use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly, and wear a surgical mask whilst in public places.
- Travellers and residents should be prepared for further travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advanced notice.